

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

April 14, 2011
Contact: Chris Mackey
Office: (919) 733-5612

Oregon Inlet to get Larger, More Effective Dredge, Governor Announces

Sends letter to Washington, urges locals to keep pressure on feds for long-term solution

Raleigh — Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to move the Dredge CURRITUCK to Oregon Inlet to provide faster, more effective dredging capabilities for that crucial navigation channel. The CURRITUCK will begin work Saturday, April 16, and will immediately commence dredging around the clock.

The current vessel stationed in the inlet, the dredge MERRITT, will transfer to another location temporarily. The Corps of Engineers and the Federal government will cover the expenses of moving the dredge from Ocean City, Md., and of operations through mid-May.

“The fishing industry is more than just a way to make a living – it is part of the Outer Banks cultural heritage and brings millions of dollars to North Carolina every year,” said Gov. Perdue. “It’s not just fishing jobs at stake if the inlet closes – it’s our tourism, our restaurants, our packing houses and our maintenance yards. I am committed to working with the Corps and local officials to protect those jobs and keep Oregon Inlet open, but at the end of the day, we need support from the feds.”

Gov. Perdue sent a letter urging officials in Washington to prioritize funding for the Outer Banks dredging operations [attached]. Since the governor’s visit to Nags Head on Monday, her staff has kept the pressure up on North Carolina’s Congressional delegation and White House officials. Today, she urged locals to do the same.

“Washington cannot forget the real people who depend on the fishing industry. They should not ignore the hundreds of millions of dollars that pump into the economy,” the governor said.